

Different meaning of the speech verbs say, tell, speak, talk

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates major points of the speech verbs. On this case, different meaning of verbs was analyzed from Russian into English. Therefore, analyses of the theory with methodology were described to make better diffusion. To conclude with both outcomes and shortcomings were outlined to get further analyses as the whole.

Keywords: Meaning, speech, verbs, say, tell, speak, talk, English, Russian.

1. INTRODUCTION

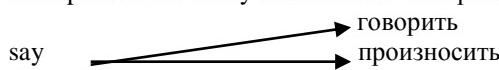
English learners are often confused in words with similar meanings and do not know which is better to choose. And in this article, we want to explain how the speech verbs say, tell, speak and talk differ in detail and clarify the differences among them.

The speech verb "говорить" can be translated into English in several ways. In order to understand which of the words is more appropriate in a given situation, we try to give the meanings of each of these speech verbs with examples.

We start with the difference between the speech verbs say and tell.

The speech verb to say translates as "говорить", "произносить".

Example:
say



- He said that you were the best candidate for this position.
- Он сказал, что ты лучший кандидат на эту должность.
- Alisher was shocked and couldn't say a word.
- Алишер был шокирован и не мог произнести ни слова.
- Zumrad wanted to say something on that matter but she was interrupted.
- Зумрад хотела сказать что-то по этому вопросу, но ее перебили.

Most often after the speech verb say can put the object that the speaker is accessing is not used.

But if you need to specify it, then you need to use the particle to.

- ⊕ I'm going to say to all of them that they are wrong.
- ⊕ Я собираюсь сказать им всем, что они неправы.

In an informal conversation the speech verb say is used for directions to do something. In this case, after the speech verb say we should use the verb in the infinitive form.

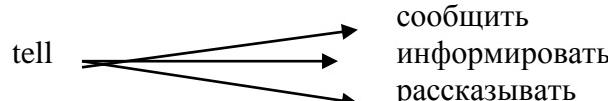
- ⊕ Mother said to sweep the floor and to tidy up my room.
- ⊕ Мама сказала подмести пол и прибрать комнату.

Also the speech verb say is used to indicate some information or give an order.

The rules say that students are not allowed to leave the flat after 10 p.m.

Правила гласят, что студентам нельзя покидать квартиру после 10.

The speech verb tell is translated as «сообщить», «информировать», «рассказывать».



- ❖ Tell me what's on your mind.
- ❖ Расскажи мне, что у тебя на уме.
- ❖ Please, tell me when you are going to get married.
- ❖ Пожалуйста, скажите мне, когда вы собираетесь пожениться.
- ❖ Don't trust him. He always tells lies.
- ❖ Не доверяй ему. Он всегда говорит неправду.

The speech verb tell is not used with the words name (имя), word (слово), sentence (предложение) and phrase (фраза). In this case instead of speech verb tell is used the speech verb say.

Don't you dare to say a word. — Не смей произносить ни слова.

The speech verb tell is used in giving orders and directions.

- I told him to sit quietly but he never obeys.
- Я велела ему сидеть тихо, но он никогда не слушается.

The speech verb tell can be found in situations where a person, based on his experience, knowledge or facts, gives an assessment of some events:

- I can tell that he's nervous. He is looking aside and sweating a lot.
- Могу с уверенностью сказать, что он нервничает. Он смотрит в сторону и сильно потеет.

One of the interesting meaning of the speech verb tell is «различать».

- While talking to these triplets it's hard to tell one from the other.
- В разговоре с этими тройняшками сложно отличить одного от другого.

We analyzed the difference between the speech verbs say and tell. The table cited popular stable phrases with these verbs.



Now we will find out which of the speech verbs - speak or talk - are chosen in a given situation.

The speech verb speak is used in more formal situations and translates as «разговаривать», «говорить». When referring to someone after the speech verb speak, we use particles "to" or "with". If we use the speech verb in the meaning of "говорить о чем-то", we put the preposition of or about after the speech verb speak.

- ❖ I want to speak to the manager of the restaurant.
- ❖ Я хочу поговорить с менеджером ресторана.
- ❖ Would you like to speak to the psychologist about your deepest fears?
- ❖ Хотел бы ты поговорить с психологом о своих самых глубоких страхах?

The speech verb speak is also used to mean «издавать звук», «использовать голос».

- speaking → издавать звук
speaking → использовать голос
- ❖ Alisher spoke so quietly I could hardly make it out.
 - ❖ Алишер говорила так тихо, что я с трудом мог разобрать ее речь.

The common meaning of the speech verb speak is «говорить на языке».

- ❖ My daughter speaks English and Spanish fluently.
- ❖ Моя дочь свободно говорит по-английски и по-испански .

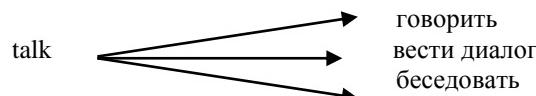
When using speech verb speak in the meaning of «высказываться против/за» we should use the prepositions against and in favor of.

- ❖ The bravest employees spoke in favor of a pay rise.
- ❖ Самые смелые сотрудники высказались за повышение зарплаты.

We use the speech verb speak in The Present Progressive Tense during a telephone conversation.

Jane is speaking. — Джейн у телефона. / Говорит Джейн.

The speech verb talk is very similar in meaning to the speech verb speak. But the speech verb talk is used in a more informal setting and translates as «говорить», «вести диалог», «беседовать».



- ❖ Our neighbour talks too much. He is a real chatterbox.
- ❖ Наш сосед слишком много говорит. Он настоящий болтун.
- ❖ Let's talk about you and me.
- ❖ Давай поговорим о тебе и обо мне.

One of the meanings of the speech verb talk is «обсуждать кого-либо/что-либо».

- ❖ My parents love to talk about sports.
- ❖ Мои родители любят говорить о спорте.

Talking of my friend, he seems gloomy. Do you know what's happening to him? —

Кстати о моем друге, он кажется мрачным. Ты знаешь, что с ним происходит?

Other meanings of the speech verb talk are «предавать огласке», «выдавать секретную информацию».



He talks stuff, you know. We need to make him keep silent.

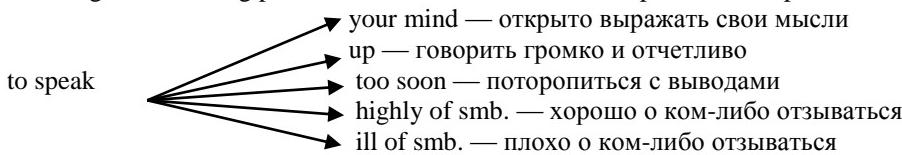
— Он болтает всякое, знаешь. Нам нужно заставить его замолчать. The next meaning of the verb talk is «убеждать», «иметь влияние».



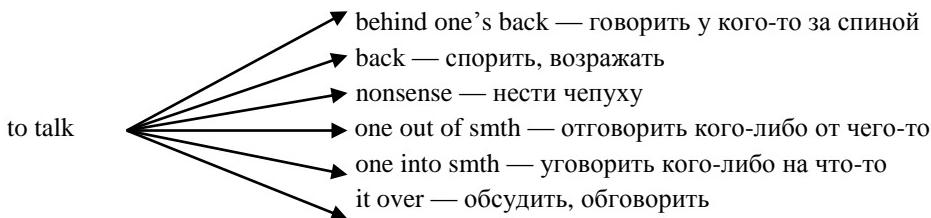
Money, power and connections talk.

— Деньги, власть и связи действительно убеждают.

Learning the following phrases we understand how to use speech verbs speak and talk.



Can't speak a word of Spanish. — Не могу ни слова сказать по-испански.



2. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the use of speech verbs, we came to conclusion that although the verbs say, tell, speak and talk are speech verbs, they differ in meaning, as each of these speech verbs has its own meanings and usage.

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